PCSI 2025
Québec, Canada
September 9 to 12

Advancements in coding, classification systems, and data quality in Canada

Authors: Alison Allen (a), Jodi McMullin (b), Stephen Badham (c)

Introduction

In Canada, advancements in coding and classifications, particularly in healthcare, have been evolving to improve data quality and the accuracy of Case Mix Group (CMG) calculations. Initiatives aimed at improving data quality, such as comprehensive data validation processes and training for coders and data analysts, are critical in ensuring the reliability of the information used in CMG calculations. These advancements also facilitate better resource allocation, improved patient outcomes, and support for public health initiatives. Beamtree are a provider of coding quality products that drive continuous improvement in healthcare information - towards safety, quality and efficiency. A recent study took place commissioned by the Pacific Health Services Authority (PHSA) in British Columbia to assess ICD-10-CA/CCS coded data and the data quality outcomes.

Methods

The audit results from PHSA (Provincial Health Services Authority) and Beamtree in Canada have highlighted key areas for improvement in healthcare data management and coder education. These audits typically assess compliance with standards, data quality, and clinical documentation. The findings often lead to recommendations for optimizing resource allocation, enhancing clinical documentation, and improving overall operational efficiency within health systems. The collaboration between PHSA and Beamtree also emphasizes the importance of using data analytics from coded data to inform decision-making and drive continuous improvement in healthcare services. 14 hospitals throughout PHSA and Interior Health were involved in the project. With 1400 inpatient charts audited, Beamtree was able to create 240 Canadian Indicators that would assist with data quality outcomes moving forward as well as coder education to improve consistency with the Canadian Coding Standards.

Results

The results of the PHSA and Beamtree audits in Canada present a comprehensive overview of the current state of healthcare data management and operational practices. The audits typically evaluate the effectiveness of existing protocols, compliance with healthcare standards, and the quality of data being collected and utilized. Key findings may highlight gaps in data accuracy, inconsistencies in coding practices, and areas where clinical documentation could be optimized. Furthermore, the collaboration between PHSA and Beamtree underscores the critical role of data analytics in driving informed decisions and fostering continuous improvements in healthcare delivery. Recommendations from these audits focus on enhancing training for Coders, implementing robust data validation processes, and leveraging technology to enhance the overall efficiency of healthcare services. Result Graphs will be provided in presentation

Discussion/Conclusions

The advancement in autonomous coding is crucial in enhancing the efficiency and accuracy of healthcare data management in Canada. As healthcare systems increasingly rely on digital solutions, autonomous coding systems can significantly reduce the burden on human coders by automating routine coding tasks, thus minimizing errors and improving data quality. Canadian coding indicators play a vital role in evaluating the performance of coding practices and ensuring compliance with national standards. Furthermore, continuous coder education is essential to keep coding professionals updated on the latest coding standards, technologies, and best practices, thereby ensuring high-quality data for healthcare analytics and decision-making.

Topics:
* Innovations in case-mix, data and technology.
* Advancements in coding, classification systems, and data quality.

Key Words: Clinical Coding, Coding Audits, Coder Education, Data Quality, AI

a: Beamtree, United Kingdom
b: Beamtree, Canada
c: Beamtree, Australia